are imposed till rehabilitation work is carried out. Frequency of inspections of distressed bridges is increased as laid down in codes and manuals.

Sabotage as cause of Rajdhani accident

2503. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a goods train passed safely over the rail bridge over Dhaba river, just 40 minutes before 2301 Up Rajdhani Express met with the accident;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the editorial, improving railway safety, published in the Tribune, Chandigarh,dated 14th September, 2002; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. 7303 Up goods train passed Rafiganj at 21.55 hours and 2301 Up Rajdhani Express passed Rafiganj at 22.40 hours.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The inquiry into the accident was conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety Eastern Circle.and he has submitted his Final Report. Major issues mentioned in the editorial of the newspaper has been covered in the report. The Commissioner has attributed the derailment to "opening of fish plates and elastic rail clips of the cess side single rail in Howrah end approach of Bridge No. 445 by miscreants," and has classified the accident under the category of "Sabotage."

Encouraging bio-generic drugs

2504. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even as global pharma majors are struggling to bring out new drugs at a faster pace due to lack of product

pipeline, the bio-generic drugs are all set to replace 70 per cent of the conventional therapies by 2025;

(b) whether growth rate of the bio-technology sector is exceeding 15 percent per annum, with only 30 major players in the fray;

(c) whether foreign countries are now sourcing India for cost-effective research and production; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking to encourage this Industry to grow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) It is true that bio-generic drugs are being developed at a faster pace as compared to conventional drugs produced by pharmaceutical companies. Most of the new drugs are protein based which may be synthesized easily by biotechnological methods. It is quite possible that bio-generic drugs may replace most of the conventional therapies by 2025.

(b) The growth rate of biotechnology sector is increasing exponentially, may exceed to fifteen per cent per annum.

(c) Foreign companies are now sourcing India for cost effective research, production and clinical trials as a strong infrastructure and expertise has been created in the country. However this will be done as per our national rules and policy.

(d) The Government is making constant efforts to encourage biotech industry. Some of the steps taken include: encouraging foreign direct investment in biotech sector (the limit of foreign investment has been increased to 100%); initiating measures for speedy implementation of FIPB projects with the constitution of Fast Track Committee (FTC) under Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA); Creation of a Single Window Application Processing Cell to deal with all the applications on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and products thereof in the Department of Biotechnology for facilitating the compliance of regulatory procedures. The investment in this sector has also increased to promote R&D on all frontiers of biotechnology.